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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Jamaica,* Japan and Mexico: draft resolution

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002, 58/214 of 23 December 2003 and 59/231 of 22 December 2004 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Recognizing that disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development,

Recognizing also the clear relationship among disasters, rehabilitation and development,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Recognizing further the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, especially in developing countries, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to address natural disasters effectively,

Emphasizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[1] in particular on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for the excellent arrangements made for hosting the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held at Kobe, Hyogo, from 18 to 22 January 2005, for the hospitality extended to the participants and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal, as well as for all the voluntary contributions made to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular those from the least developed countries,

Welcoming the Hyogo Declaration,[2] the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] and the common statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future,[4] as adopted by the World Conference,

Recognizing that the Hyogo Framework for Action complements the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[5]

Recalling section II entitled "Development" of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[7]

2. *Endorses* the Hyogo Declaration,[2] the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[3] and the common statement of the Special Session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future,[4] as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction;

3. *Calls for* a more effective integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, planning and programming, for the development

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[2] See A/CONF.206/6, chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2.

[4] A/CONF.206/6, annex II.

[5] A/CONF.172/9, chapter I, resolution 1, annex I.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

[7] A/60/180.

and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards; and for a systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes;

4. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, regional bodies and international organizations, and relevant civil society organizations to support, implement and follow up and support the Hyogo Framework for Action;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to fully implement the particular commitments of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action related to the provision of assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and disaster-stricken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk reduction activities in post-disaster recovery, and for rehabilitation processes, through the timely provision of adequate financial and other resources, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity-building;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including international financial institutions and international organizations, to integrate the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes, making use of existing coordination mechanisms and, with those mechanisms, to assist developing countries in designing disaster risk reduction measures with a sense of urgency;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions and regional banks and other regional and international organizations, to support, in a timely and sustained manner, the efforts led by disaster-stricken countries for disaster risk reduction, in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes;

8. *Takes note* of all the regional and subregional initiatives developed in order to achieve disaster risk reduction and reiterates the need to develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms and to strengthen them, wherever they exist, and encourage the use and sharing of all the existing tools;

9. *Notes* the importance of developing international mechanisms for the implementation of the actions established in the Hyogo Framework for Action, such as the International Recovery Platform, launched to assure the reduction of vulnerability in the post-disaster recovery phase;

10. *Recognizes* that each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, inter alia, for the protection of people on its territory, infrastructure and other national assets for the impact of disasters, including the implementation and follow-up of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and stresses the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

11. *Also recognizes* the need to strengthen the sharing of good practices, knowledge and technical support among all relevant stakeholders;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to support the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards;

13. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening the capacity of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system in order to provide a solid basis for action, as mandated by the Hyogo Framework for Action, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on this issue at its sixty-first session;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective as well as engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly in the disaster reduction stage;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

16. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Strategy and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

18. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

19. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels of the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities, as well as the importance of integrating disaster reduction into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

20. *Also stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities of developing countries through, inter alia, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the exchange of experiences and technical knowledge; access to relevant data and information; and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

21. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster reduction and looks forward to the results of the Third International Conference on Early Warning to be held from 27 to 29 March 2006 in Bonn;

22. *Reiterates* its call upon Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction and to strengthen them wherever they exist and encourages those platforms to share relevant information on standards and practices and, in this regard, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to ensure such support;

23. *Stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional

organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to addressing effectively the impact of natural disasters;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of linking, as appropriate, disaster risk management to regional frameworks, such as the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Reduction, developed within the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[8] to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

25. *Stresses* the importance of implementing programmes related to the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and disaster reduction management in the most vulnerable regions of Latin America and the Caribbean;

26. *Emphasizes* the need for the international community to maintain its focus beyond emergency relief, in order to sustain the political will to support medium- and long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction, particularly in the context of efforts led by the Governments of the countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster and the South-Asian earthquake;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

[8] A/57/304, annex.